



DELAINE EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



August 8, 2000

Dear Superintendent:

The California Department of Education (CDE) is pleased to announce the availability of the application for Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to obtain the Fiscal Year 2000 Appropriation for Title I School Improvement, also known as Program Improvement in California. These funds were made available to LEAs by Public Law 106-113 (November 1999) for two purposes: (1) to carry out Program Improvement (PI) and corrective actions responsibilities under Section 1116(c) of Title I, and (2) to allow parents the choice of transferring their children from a Title I PI school to a non-Title I PI school.

1. State Board of Education Conditions

On April 13, 2000 the California State Board of Education (SBE) authorized CDE to amend its Improving America's School Act State Plan to receive these funds. The SBE adopted the following conditions for funding LEAs under the FY2000 Appropriation for Program Improvement.

- LEAs with schools identified for Title I Program Improvement for three consecutive years according to Title I, Section 1116 (c).
- Schools that use the SBE adopted core content standards, frameworks, and basic instructional materials in reading/language arts and mathematics to provide a strong and focused curriculum for all students.
- Schools that will provide fully qualified classroom teachers to deliver rigorous instruction based on State Board adopted standards in the core content areas (reading/language arts, mathematics, science, history and social science).

2. Funding

LEAs that have eligible schools will be funded at a predetermined level. An LEA must account for the program improvement funds separately in the targeted assistance schools because they are designated for only eligible Title I students. However, program improvement funds in schoolwide schools may be combined with all federal and state funds at that site to be used to support schoolwide improvement efforts. Note that all schools receiving these funds must demonstrate the continuing responsibilities for Title I, Section 1116(c).

3. Resources

The enclosed application requires the use of an entity external to the LEA to assist the school to begin immediate implementation of program improvement activities. The following resources, among others, are available to help with program improvement activities in the schools referred to in the attached District Funding Report:

- Northern and Southern California Comprehensive Assistance Centers
- Statewide System of School Support (S4)
- Elementary Networks Office California Department of Education
- County Offices of Education
- California Department of Education

4. KEY POINTS FOR CLARIFICATION

ASSURANCE #2. Qualified Teachers in the Classroom

The intent of this assurance is that students in Program Improvement schools will be taught by fully credentialed teachers. The LEA should currently have in place strategies or a plan on how teachers will be deployed to meet the intent of this assurance. A resource is available through CDE: "California Standards for the Teaching Profession".

ASSURANCE #6. Notice to Parents

The [Guidance from the USDE](#) for this appropriation on program improvement states on page 16 that parents are to be notified of the opportunity to transfer their child from the participating PI school to a school in the district that is not in PI. However, if the LEA "lacks the capacity" to provide this choice opportunity to parents, they must be notified of that also.

ELEMENTARY NETWORKS

The Elementary Networks Office in the California Department of Education has planned regional roll out meetings to introduce two new Publications: "First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education" and "Elementary Makes the Grade." In addition, the schools on the attached District Funding Report will be given the opportunity to participate in professional development activities in reading, mathematics and classroom management.

For more information contact the Networks Office at elemnet@cde.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 647-2926.

FUNDING FORMULA

The total allocation to California is \$16,874,570. Each participating school will receive a minimum of \$50,000. The remaining funds (approximately \$19,416) will be allocated to each school with an enrollment above 999.

ADDITIONAL TITLE I REQUIREMENTS:

Finally, each participating school must do the following two activities:

- (1) In consultation with parents, LEA, support entities (S4 and external entity), develop and/or revise its site plan within three months to make sure the students have the "greatest likelihood" to improve their academic performance. (See Title I, Section 1116(c)(2), Enclosure 2). Form #4 certifies that the requirement to revise or update the school site plan has been accomplished. Please complete and return within three months but no later than December 29, 2000.
- (2) Indicate in the plan the allowance of time and fiscal resources for professional development that is aligned with the State Board adopted standards. (See Section 1116(c)(3).

The application (Forms 1, 2, and 3) must be sent by FAX or MAIL, and must be received or postmarked by the deadline date of September 22, 2000 to:

California Department of Education
Specialized Programs Division
721 Capitol Mall, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA, 95814
Attention: Jerry Cummings

For additional information about the Fiscal Year 2000 Appropriation for Title I School Improvement, please contact Hanna L. Walker at (916) 657-2577.

Sincerely,

Leslie Faussett, Chief Deputy Superintendent
Educational Policy, Curriculum, and Department Management

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cc: Consolidated Program Director